

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A reinforced structural member for reinforcing portions of an automotive vehicle, comprising:

- (a) an elongated carrier member formed of a polymeric material, the carrier member including;
 - i) a first body member having a first end;
 - ii) a second body member having a first end wherein the first end of the second body member is attached to the first end of the first body member such that the second body member is disposed at an angle relative to the first body member; and
 - iii) at least one connector member interconnecting the first body member to the second body member;

(b) a reinforcement material disposed upon a portion of the carrier member, the portion of the carrier member being selected from the first body member, the second body member and the at least one connector member.

Claim 2 (original): A member as in claim 1 wherein the first body member is attached to the second body member with an arcuate portion and the reinforcement material is at least partially disposed upon the arcuate portion.

Claim 3 (original): A member as in claim 1 wherein the at least one connector member bridges a space between the first body member and the second body member.

Claim 4 (original): A member as in claim 1 wherein the at least one connector member is contoured to form an arc or an angle.

Claim 5 (original): A member as in claim 4 wherein the arc or angle of the at least one connector member is directed outwardly from the carrier member.

Claim 6 (original): A member as in claim 1 wherein the at least one connector member is configured as a truncated triangle.

Claim 7 (original): A member as in claim 1 wherein the carrier member is formed of a singular material.

Claim 8 (original): A member as in claim 1 wherein a length of the carrier member extends from a first panel of an automotive vehicle toward a second panel of an automotive vehicle.

Claim 9 (original): A member as in claim 8 wherein at least a portion of the expandable reinforcement material is configured to expand and adhere to the first panel and a portion of the expandable reinforcement material is configured to expand and adhere to the second panel.

Claim 10 (original): A member as in claim 3 wherein at least a portion of the expandable reinforcement material is located in the space.

Claim 11 (original): A member as in claim 9 wherein the first panel is a body side inner panel and the second panel is a body side outer panel.

Claim 12 (original): A member as in claim 1 wherein the first body member is configured to collapse on the second body member in an accordion-like manner.

Claims 13-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (new): A member as in claim 1 wherein the first body member comprises a plurality of first body members and the second body member comprises a plurality of second body members, each of the plurality of second body members attached to one or more of the first body members and disposed at an angle relative to the one or more first body members for forming a zig-zag configuration;

wherein the at least one connector member comprises pairs of opposing connector members interconnecting and bridging a space between each one of the plurality of first body members and at least one of the plurality of second body members;

wherein the reinforcement material is an expandable material; and

wherein, upon experiencing an impact, the plurality of first body members are configured to move toward the plurality of second body members thereby fracturing the pairs of connector members.

Claim 28 (new): A member as in claim 27 wherein the zig-zag configuration extends along a length of the carrier member.

Claim 29 (new): A member as in claim 28 wherein the length of the carrier member extends from a first panel of an automotive vehicle toward a second panel of an automotive vehicle.

Claim 30 (new): A member as in claim 29 wherein at least a portion of the expandable reinforcement material is configured to expand and adhere to the first panel and a portion of the expandable reinforcement material is configured to expand and adhere to the second panel.

Claim 31 (new): A member as in claim 30 wherein at least a portion of the expandable reinforcement material is located in the space.

Claim 32 (new): A member as in claim 31 wherein the first panel is a body side inner panel and the second panel is a body side outer panel.

Claim 33 (new): A member as in claim 32 wherein the first body members and the second body members are configured to collapse on each other in an accordion-like manner.

Claim 34 (new): A member as in claim 33 wherein the first body members are shape as a rectangular wall.